

Coins

Changes in design, value in the making

By Roger Boye

BY MAKING MINOR changes in the design of the Bicentennial dollar coin, the United States Mint has created a potentially semivaluable coin variety being found in circulation here.

The mint representatives announced they were making the minor design changes after producing 21 million Bicentennial dollars in Denver and 1.7 million in Philadelphia. Collectors are referring to the dollars minted before the change as "Type I" and to those made after the change as "Type II." The mint currently is producing "Type II" dollars and will likely continue to do so through 1976.

The major difference between "Type I" and "Type II" dollars is the lettering on the reverse

[tails] side. On "Type II," the lettering is narrower and rounder, conforming with the lettering on the obverse [heads] side.

In addition, certain features of Eisenhower's face were changed slightly on "Type II," and minor changes were made to the Liberty Bell's yoke and base.

The mint made the changes because the original design ["Type I"] did not lend itself to high-speed mass production.

Since "Type I" dollars will account for less than 10 per cent of the 300 million Bicentennial dollars to be produced before the end of next year, they likely will attain a modest collectors' value.

The Philadelphia-minted "Type I" dollar [1.7

million made] is more valuable to collectors than the Denver-minted "Type I" dollar [21 million made] which likely will be sold by dealers for a relatively small amount over face value. However, it will be a few months before an average dealer selling price is established. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that a 1970-D ["D" for Denver] half-dollar [2.1 million minted] sells for about \$16 in uncirculated condition.

Several collectors have reported finding "Type I" dollars in circulation, although most of the finds are from the Denver Mint. The Philadelphia-minted dollars carry no mint marks. Denver-minted dollars carry a "D" at the base of Eisenhower's neck and above "1976."